



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 5118**
Hiroyuki TAWADA et al. : Docket No. 2002_0371A
Serial No. 10/088,415 : Group Art Unit 1626
Filed March 18, 2002 : Examiner Andrea D.S. Small

PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF
OXAZOLE DERIVATIVES

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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
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This is responsive to the Official Action dated April 14, 2003.

The Official Action constitutes a requirement for restriction.

Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-12, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 14 of Group III should be examined with the elected claims. Although claim 14 is directed to a method of producing a different end compound, step 1 of claim 14 is the same as the method of claim 1, and produces the compound according to claim 1 as an intermediate compound, except wherein R^3 is limited to $COOR^7$. Please see page 58, line 19 to page 59, line 7 of the specification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that it is appropriate for claim 14 to be examined in the present application since, if the method of claim 1 is patentable, the method of claim 14 must be patentable.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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